Riding Matters

OCTOBER 2011

A Newsletter for Members of the BMW Motorcycle Owners Club of MN

Contents

[President's Message](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Pics: Grand Marais](#)

[Talkin' Technical: Winterizing](#)

[Board Minutes](#)

Calendar

Oct. 20 (Thurs.)
7 pm, Board Meeting
Davanni's
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Oct 29, (Sat.) 9–11am
Club Volunteer Event
Feed My Starving Children
Coon Rapids, MN
Meet earlier for breakfast!

Nov. 10 (Thurs.)
7 pm, Club Meeting
Club Elections
Broadway Pizza
2025 West River Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612-529-7745

Dec. 8 (Thurs.)
7 pm, Club Meeting
Holiday Gathering &
Toys for Tots Collection
Broadway Pizza
2025 West River Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612-529-7745

Full Club Calendar

Find us on Facebook

Yes, you can blame me ...

by Dave Samborski, Club President

I love riding around on my bikes in the fall.

Many of the highways have been repaved, the bugs are gone, the temperatures are comfortable with all our fine protective gear on. Watching the leaves get swirled up from the small vortex of the bike in front of me or in the mirrors of my own bike always give me a little smile. Yes, the days of riding this season are getting short in number. All the more reason to put off those inside projects until a later day. Yes, you can blame me when your significant other is furious with you.

As we transition into fall and winter, yes, the riding may slow and stop here in Minnesota, but club activities continue on. We'll need some willing minds to help on the board of directors this next year - yes, you could do it! We'll be looking for nominations at the club meeting this month, and voting on them at the November meeting (along with a new logo design). Think it's too much to handle? Pshaw ... it's easy, and we barely get anything done with all the laughs and clowning around we do - oops, I've said too much!

Lewie Marshall and Tom Erdmann have taken the reins in organizing the winter banquet. They will appreciate your help making it the highlight of your cold, cold month of January.

Oh and don't forget our club volunteer opportunity at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids at the end of the month. Yes, it probably qualifies for community service points!

Ride safely everyone!

Club Volunteer Event:

25 Members Will Pack Food on 10/29

If you haven't signed up yet to participate in our Feed My Starving Children volunteer event, you are too late! Our club had 25 slots to fill, and they have all been filled by members and their families. What a great opportunity to help starving children around the world.

Volunteers will be packing meals on Sat., Oct. 29 at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids. This special food was designed by food scientists at Cargill and General Mills to meet the nutritional needs of a 4-to-8-year-old malnourished child. Each meal has 20 different vitamins and minerals that are specifically tailored to meet a child's nutritional needs for one day. Since its founding in 1981, FMSC has sent food to nearly 70 countries including Haiti, Sudan, Jamaica, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Tanzania, Lesotho, Liberia, Ghana, Guatemala, Malawi, Cambodia, East Timor, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Cameroon, Niger, Colombia, and El Salvador, and to Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana, Mississippi and many more.

The BMW Motorcycle Owners Club of MN meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm, generally at Broadway Pizza in Minneapolis, unless otherwise noted.

New and prospective members and guests are always welcome!

Find us on Facebook

Or visit us on our club's Web site

The BMW Motorcycle Owners Club of Minnesota is a recognized independent enthusiasts BMW club but in no way represents either BMW AG or BMW North America.

Board of Directors

Club Officers:

President:
Dave Samborski
Vice President:
Tom Erdmann
Treasurer:
Lewis Marshall
Recorder:
Joel Howard

Board Members:

George Spector
Tim Cusick
Gary Trull
Charles Turner
Kevin Kocur (Past President)

Photo Gallery

Check out our Club Photo Album on SmugMug

Grand Marais Weekend

Mileage Contest Check In

Talkin' Technical: Winter Storage

Edited by Janis Chamoun

Total Motorcycle's 10-Step Guide to Winterizing Your Motorcycle

Outside a single white snowflake falls... Disbelief falls on your face as another snowflake falls... Then you realize, another riding year over and it's time to put the bike away for the winter. This is the time to get in that last few riding days and put our bikes properly away for the winter so they are ready for the next riding season to start again.

1. Location - Where to Store it?

One solution may be to ask your dealer if he offers a storage program. This is ideal because he will often prep, store, and have the bike ready to ride when you are ready again. If you decide to store it yourself, you will need a place that is dry and out of harm's way.

When possible, choose a location away from windows. The ultraviolet light can fade paint and plastic parts. Direct sunlight can raise the ambient temperature

of the storage area, which will promote condensation when the sun goes down, so cover plain glass with some sort of opaque material. Also, cover your bike with a specially designed bike cover, not a sheet or a tarp. Why? Because a sheet absorbs moisture and holds it against metal surfaces and then rust forms. Also, damp fabric will breed mildew and this may attack the seat material. A tarp prevents moisture from getting in but it also prevents it from getting out. Moisture trapped will condense on the bike and then the rust monster is back!

A specially designed motorcycle cover is made of a mildew resistant material. The material is slightly porous, so it can breathe.

2. Change The Oil

Tip: Just like cars, a colder winter grade oil will allow your bike to start easier in colder weather. If your motorcycle runs ok with a cold winter grade oil (5w30) then changing the oil to this grade will help startup and running in spring.

Even if the oil is not due for a change, byproducts of combustion produce acids in the oil that will harm the inner metal surfaces. Warm the engine to its normal operating temperature, as warm oil drains much faster and more completely.

While you are at it, why not change the filter too? Add fresh motorcycle grade oil. Remember to dispose of the drained oil and old filter in a responsible manner. What to do with the old oil? Recycle it. Most stores you have purchased the oil from will take it back free of charge to be recycled.

3. Add Fuel Stabilizer & Drain Carbs

Tip: You only need to drain the carbs if your motorcycle will be stored more than 4 months. Otherwise just add fuel stabilizer to the gas tank and run the bike for 10 minutes so it mixes and gets into the carbs.

Fill the tank with fresh fuel, but do not overfill. The correct level is when the fuel just touches the bottom of the filler neck. This gives enough room for the fuel to expand without overflowing the tank when temperature rises.

Shut off the fuel petcock and drain the carburetors and the fuel lines. Add winterizing fuel conditioner to prevent the fuel from going stale, and help prevent moisture accumulation. Stale fuel occurs when aromatics (the lighter additives) evaporate leaving a thicker, sour smelling liquid. If left long enough, it will turn into a gum, plugging the jets and passages inside your carbs!

4. Lube the Cylinder(s)

Tip: You only need to do this if your motorcycle will be stored a very long time (6 months or more).

Because gasoline is an excellent solvent and the oil scraper ring has done its job, most of the oil from the cylinder walls has been removed since the last time the engine was run. If the cylinder wall is left unprotected for a long period of time, it will rust and cause premature piston and ring wear.

Remove the spark plugs and pour a tablespoon (5 cc) of clean engine oil or spray fogging oil into each cylinder. Be sure to switch off the fuel before you crank the engine or else you may refill the drained carbs! Also, ground the ignition leads to prevent sparks igniting any fuel residue. Turn the engine over several revolutions to spread the oil around and then reinstall the plugs. Refitting the plugs before cranking the engine could result in a hydraulic lock if too much oil was used in the cylinder.

Continued on page 4

Winter Storage (Continued from page 3)

5. Battery Storage

The battery must be removed from the motorcycle when it is in storage. Motorcycles often have a small current drain even when the ignition is switched off (dark current), and a discharged battery will sulfate and no longer be able to sustain a charge.

A conventional battery should be checked for electrolyte level. Add distilled water to any of the cells that are low and then charge the battery.

Battery charging should be performed at least every two weeks using a charger that has an output of 10% of the battery ampere hour rating. For example, if the battery has an AH rating of 12 (e.g. 12N12A-4A-1 where the 12A is 12 amp hours), then the charge rate of that battery should not exceed 1.2 amps. A higher charge will cause the battery to overheat. Charge the battery away from open flame or sparks as the gas (hydrogen) given off a battery can be explosive. Elevate the battery and keep it from freezing. Exercise the proper caution appropriate to caustic substances.

6. Surface Preparation

Waxing and polishing the motorcycle might seem like a waste of time since you are putting it away and no one will see it. But applying wax is a very important part of storing a motorcycle.Wax will act as a barrier against rust and moisture.

Don't forget to spray any other metal surfaces (such as the frame or engine) with a very light spray of WD-40. This will keep these areas shiny and protect from corrosion as well.

7. Exhaust and Mufflers

Exhausts/Mufflers are known to rust fast when they are not used. So making sure they are properly stored for the winter on your bike will save them from an early rusty death. Spray a light oil (such as WD40) into the muffler ends and drain holes. Lightly stick a plastic bag (shopping bag is fine) into the end of each muffler hole (to keep moisture from getting inside the exhaust). Then cover each muffler with another plastic bag to keep outside moisture off.

8. Tires

Check both front and rear tires with your air pressure gauge. Make sure each tire is properly inflated to the maximum recommended pressure. As it gets colder, air condenses in your tires so it is important to pump them up as to keep your tires healthy. Rubber is a flexible material and does not like to freeze (it cracks when it freezes). Placing 1/4"-1/2" piece of cardboard or wood board under each tire will help keep the rubber raised up from a freezing floor.

DO NOT use a tire dressing on tires (such as Armor-All or tire cleaning foam) as this will make the tires hard and slippery.

9. Service all fluids

If the brake or clutch fluids haven't been changed in the last two years or 18,000 km (11,000 miles), do it now. The fluids used in these systems are "hygroscopic," which means that they absorb moisture. The contaminated fluid will cause corrosion inside the systems, which may cause problems when the motorcycle is used next spring. Be sure to use the correct fluids and note the warnings and instructions in the service manual. If you don't have the experience to service these systems, contact your dealer, he will be happy to assist you.

If your motorcycle is liquid cooled, the coolant requires changing every two years or 24,000 kms (15,000 miles). Make sure that the engine is cool enough to rest your hand on it before draining the system and please dispose of the coolant responsibly. Coolant/antifreeze is available from your dealer and has been developed to provide the correct protection for your motorcycle engine. Mixed 50/50 with distilled water will ensure a clean system for the next two years or 24,000 kms (15,000 miles).

10. Cover it

Now you can cover the bike with the cycle cover and look forward to the first warm day of spring.

Back On The Road

Before you head out onto the highway, there are a couple of things to do. First, remove the cover and put it where you can find it again. Talking of finding things, locate the (charged) battery and reinstall it connecting the positive (+) cable (red) before the (-) negative and covering the terminals with the plastic covers. Recheck all fluid levels and turn on the fuel. Check for anything wrong on the motorcycle (cracked tires, broken parts/plastic, leaking oil). Set the tire pressures back to riding specs and you are ready to fire up.

As you don your riding gear, remember that your riding skills will be a little rusty and the road surfaces will have changed a bit since the last ride, so go carefully. Sand/salt deposits on the edge of the road and especially at corners may be hazardous.

Present: Dave Samborski, Joel Howard, Lewis Marshall, Charles Turner, Gary Trull, George Spector, Tim Cusick. Janis Chamoun and Pete Skujins also attended. Absent : Kevin Kocur

The meeting was held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 15, 2011 at Davanni's in Minnetonka.

Treasurer's Report
Lewis Marshall provided the Treasurer's report:
* **Club account: Balance is $3514.09.**
* **Rally account Balance is $10,379.45.**
* **Total balance: $14,031.36.**

Upcoming Club Meetings
October 13: Nominations for the club elections.
November 10: Club elections.
December 8: Holiday gathering and Toys for Tots collection.
January: Club winter banquet. Date to be announced.

Club Elections
We need to elect two new board members, to replace George Spector and Tim Cusick.
Charles Turner and Gary Trull will continue in the second year of their terms as board members.
The other officers appear to be interested in running for re-election:
- **Dave Samborski as president**
- **Tom Erdmann as vice president**
- **Lewis Marshall as treasurer**
- **Joel Howard as recorder**

Club Logo
The board reviewed the club member submissions for the new logo. We selected a set of logos to advance to the next round. We looked at the following criteria:
- **The logo needs to have a motorcycling theme.**
- **The logo needs to have some connection to Minnesota.**
- **The logo needs to be simple enough to display well in a reduced size. It also needs to be a design that can be embroidered onto shirts, patches, and so on.**

Here are the next steps:
1. **Janis Chamoun volunteered to re-create these in Adobe Illustrator so that we have digital versions. Thanks, Janis!**
2. **We will present the selected logos to the membership at the October club meeting.**
3. **We will vote on a final club logo at the November club meeting. This fits right in with the 2012 board elections that night.**
4. **The winner will receive a choice of one 2012 Hiawatha rally registration, two winter banquet tickets, or two club memberships.**

We also need to prepare a club corporate logo that meets the BMW corporate format standards.
We decided to keep the existing full name of the club: BMW Motorcycle Owners Club of Minnesota. We had discussed shortening the name (such as dropping "Owners") so it would fit better on the corporate logo. We ultimately decided to keep the existing name, which is on record with the IRS and is used on other official club registration papers.

Hiawatha Rally
The board approved a $15,200 budget for the 2012 rally. This budget includes:
- **Up to $1300 for a band.**
- **$150 ($75 per pair) for four walk talkies for the rally committee chairs.**
- **$220 for two new coffee urns ($110 each) to replace faulty ones.**
- **Four Hiawatha Rally registrations, which will be donated to other rallies to use as door prizes.**
- **$300 for the MOA national charity.**

This $15,200 budget is a $807 increase over the $14,293 total for the 2010 rally.
Gary Trull has volunteered to be the registration chair for the 2011 rally. Charles Turner will be the coffee chair.
We still need a rally co-chair to work with Julie Bushnell.

We discussed how it can be difficult to get club members to volunteer for events. The board and rally planning committee will approach members and ask them to pitch in, especially if they have experience in a certain area. It was reported that the Wisconsin BMW club gives a free rally registration to people who volunteer at the Dells rally.

Club Bylaws
Charles has reviewed the bylaws again and thinks we can probably keep the associate member designation for now. We will find out from Vicki Breese how many associate members we have. We can take up the bylaws discussion again when the new club board convenes in February 2012.

Newsletter
Janis Chamoun, our newsletter editor, attended the board meeting and discussed options for upcoming newsletters. We discussed whether we need to do a monthly newsletter or could do one less often. We decided to keep doing it monthly. The newsletter needs ride reports and other submissions. We talked about recruiting members to be correspondents. Janis could assign them to attend an event and then prepare a story. If anyone is interested in a reporting role like this, please contact Janis.

Other Club Business
Dirt Bike Tech Day is officially set for October 8 and 9.

October 8 is the date of Lewie Marshall's fall color ride.

October 9 is the end of the mileage contest. Darrell Waidelich and Joel Howard will be at Leo's South from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to accept both the BMWMOCM and BMWMOA mileage forms.

The club is volunteering at Feed My Starving Children on Oct. 29. At the time of the board meeting, we had 9 people signed up and another 15 positions still open.

Tom Erdmann and Lewie Marshall are willing to plan the 2012 winter banquet. They will talk to Julie Bushnell, who had volunteered to head up the banquet planning.